

Tuxedo Union Free School District
Tuxedo Park, New York 10987

Mr. Joseph P. Zanetti
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Dawn Cupano
Business Administrator

February 4, 2008

Dear Parents and Tuxedo Staff:

We have been informed that a student in our elementary school has been hospitalized with the bacterial infection of MRSA (Methicillian Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus).

To ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, we have contacted the Orange County Department of Health and the Orange-Ulster BOCES Risk Management Department. The interventions they have suggested have been and will continue to be implemented in our schools. It is our goal to continue to provide a safe and healthy school environment.

Please review my October 31, 2007 letter, reprinted on the reverse side of this sheet. The letter contains guidelines and resources for you and your family members in helping to control the spread of this community associated infection.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Zanetti
Superintendent of Schools

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Tuxedo Union Free School District
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Business Administrator

October 31, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In light of recent information and concern about reported occurrences of Methicillian Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, or MRSA, please review the following basic facts as well as simple preventative measures:

- MRSA refers to a type of bacteria that is resistant to most antibiotics. It is commonly found in hospitalized patients and is usually transmitted through direct contact with the hands of a health care worker or patient who is infected. CA-MRSA refers to community-associated MRSA – infections in healthy people who have not been hospitalized within the past year.
- Anyone can contract CA-MRSA; however, most outbreaks have been observed among athletes, military recruits, daycare attendees or anyone else who routinely shares crowded settings and contaminated items.
- CA-MRSA infections typically begin as skin infections. They first appear as reddened areas on the skin that can resemble pimples that develop into skin abscesses or boils causing fever, pus, swelling or pain.
- CA-MRSA is spread mainly through person-to-person contact or contact with a contaminated item such as a towel, clothing or athletic equipment.
- If basic hygiene precautions are followed, MRSA carriers are *not* a hazard to others including their family and friends.
- **CAREFUL HANDWASHING** is the single most effective way to control the spread of CA-MRSA. Skin infections caused by MRSA should be covered until healed, especially to avoid spreading the infection to others.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) have issued recommendations for preventing the spread of CA-MRSA.
- Preventive measures for the transmittal of disease include:
 - Washing hands often or using a hand-sanitizer;
 - Keeping any cuts and scrapes clean and covered with bandages.
 - Not sharing personal items such as towels, cups or utensils;
 - Showering after athletic practices or competitions.

Further information about preventing the spread of MRSA can be found on the CDC's website or by calling the Orange County Health Department.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Zanetti
Superintendent of Schools